Replacement of word 'Rape' with 'Sexual Assault'

1568. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission for Women has recommended for replacing the word "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in all Acts since word "rape" is derogatory to women;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Police Chiefs of the States and Home Ministry have endorsed this recommendation of NCW;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some sections of the society are demanding for dropping Section 377 of IPC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and what the Ministry has done in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) The National Commission for Women has not so far recommended for replacing the word "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in all Acts. However the NCW agreed to the Law Commission's proposal to replace "Rape" with "Sexual Assault" in Section 375 of the IPC.

(c) and (d) Naz Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organization approached the Delhi High Court and the Supreme Court, challenging the Constitutional validity of Section 377 of IPC. However, the Government in an affidavit filed in the Court did not favour deletion of the Section, Law Commission of India in its 172nd report on 'Review of Rape Laws' has recommended, among other things, to delete Sections 377 of IPC and take steps to protect children from sexual abuse. The Government have not taken a final decision on the recommendations.

Al-Qaida Militants in India

†1569. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Al-Qaida has spread its footing in India also and has been carrying out terrorist activities in the country;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.